



**U S Army Corps
of Engineers**
Huntington District

Public Notice

In reply refer to Public Notice No.

2006-2164-2

Issuance Date:

February 16, 2007

Stream: **UN Trib Big Walnut Creek**

Closing Date:

March 19, 2007

Please address all comments and inquiries to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

ATTN: CELRH-OR-F Public Notice No. (*reference above*)

502 Eighth Street

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Phone: (304) 399-5210

PUBLIC NOTICE: The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

REGULATORY PROGRAM: Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

SECTION 10: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States (U.S.). The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

SECTION 404: The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This notice serves as the Corps of Engineers' request to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to act on Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the following application:

APPLICANT: Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Port Columbus International Airport
4600 International Gateway
Columbus, Ohio 43219

LOCATION: The project is located in wetlands adjacent to unnamed tributaries of Big Walnut Creek (Mason Run and Turkey Run) at the Port Columbus International Airport in Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to place fill material into waters of the United States in conjunction with the construction of the Loop Road, expansion of the Blue Lot Parking Facility, and construction of the 17th Avenue North Parking Lot. According to the applicant, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA), the Port Columbus Airport (PCA) is currently undergoing major renovations to accommodate expansion of services. To accommodate the proposed increase in demand, the applicant is planning to expand the airport facilities by constructing a new terminal, a new runway, additional parking, including expansion of existing parking lots and construction of new parking areas and an indoor parking facility, and modifying and constructing new roadways for improved ingress and egress at the airport. The new terminal and runway would be considered under a separate permit application and are currently being evaluated by the Federal Aviation Administration through the Environmental Impact Statement process. Construction of the Loop Road, expansion of the Blue Parking Lot, and construction of the 17th Avenue North Lot are now under consideration as a part of this permit application. The applicant has exceeded the 0.50 acre limit specified by the nationwide permits as a result of other wetland fill activities within the airport boundaries. Accordingly, this proposal requires an individual Section 404 permit from this office.

The proposed Loop Road would be constructed east of the existing I-670/Steltzer Road/International Gateway Interchange. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the applicant for the interchange project, which is currently being considered under a separate permit action by this office. The proposed interchange is a federally funded project while the Loop Road would be funded by the CRAA. Construction activities associated with the Loop Road construction project would include the installation of a 21" reinforced concrete pipe into 0.036 acre of jurisdictional wetland (Wetland 28C). Rock channel protection would be placed into the wetland at the ingress and egress of the culvert. Work associated with the expansion of the Blue and Green Parking lots would include the installation of a 21" culvert into 0.095 acre of two jurisdictional wetlands (Wetland 33 and 35D). Construction of the 17th Avenue North Parking lots would include the excavation of approximately 314 cubic yards from into six jurisdictional wetlands (Wetlands 12 A-D & 13). Approximately 565 cubic yards of fill would then be placed into 0.29 acres of wetlands to construct parking lot. A total of 0.42 acre of jurisdictional wetland would be impacted by this proposal.

MITIGATION: To compensate for the loss of 0.42 acre of Category 1 wetland, the applicant proposes to purchase 0.42 acre of wetland mitigation credit from an approved mitigation bank that services the Scioto River Watershed. The applicant also proposes to provide wetland mitigation at a 0.5:1 ratio at a location on-site or within the Big Walnut Creek or immediately adjacent watershed. The applicant is currently pursuing mitigation locations at this time.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

A total of 0.42 acre of jurisdictional wetland would be filled as a result of the proposal. The project does not require access to or siting within the wetlands to fulfill its basic purpose and is considered a non-water dependent activity. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state that for non-water dependent activities, practicable alternatives that do not involve wetlands are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. The applicant is required to provide an alternative analysis that must overcome the presumption prior to receiving authorization for the placement of fill material. The applicant has submitted the required alternative analysis and it is currently being reviewed.

A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES: The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and it has been determined that there are no properties within the project area listed on the register. A copy of this public notice will be furnished to the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office for their review. Comments concerning archeological sensitivity of a project area should be based upon collected data.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES: The project is located within the known or historic range of the following endangered species: Indiana bat (E), clubshell mussel (E), Scioto madom (E), eastern massasauga (C), northern riffleshell mussel (E), and rayed bean mussel (C). The Huntington District has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to affect the continued existence of these species as habitat conducive for these species is not located at the site. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW AND COMMENT: Any person who has an interest that may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and


must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity. This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Program of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404(b) (1) of the CWA. Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; of those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. For accuracy and completeness of the administrative record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

Kimberly Courts-Brown, Regulatory Project Manager
North Regulatory Section, CELRH-OR-FN
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070.

Please note names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available. Thank you for your interest in our nation's water resources. If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Kimberly Courts-Brown of the North Regulatory Section at 304-399-5210.


Ginger Mullins, Chief
Regulatory Branch

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LOOP ROAD AND ASSOCIATED PARKING

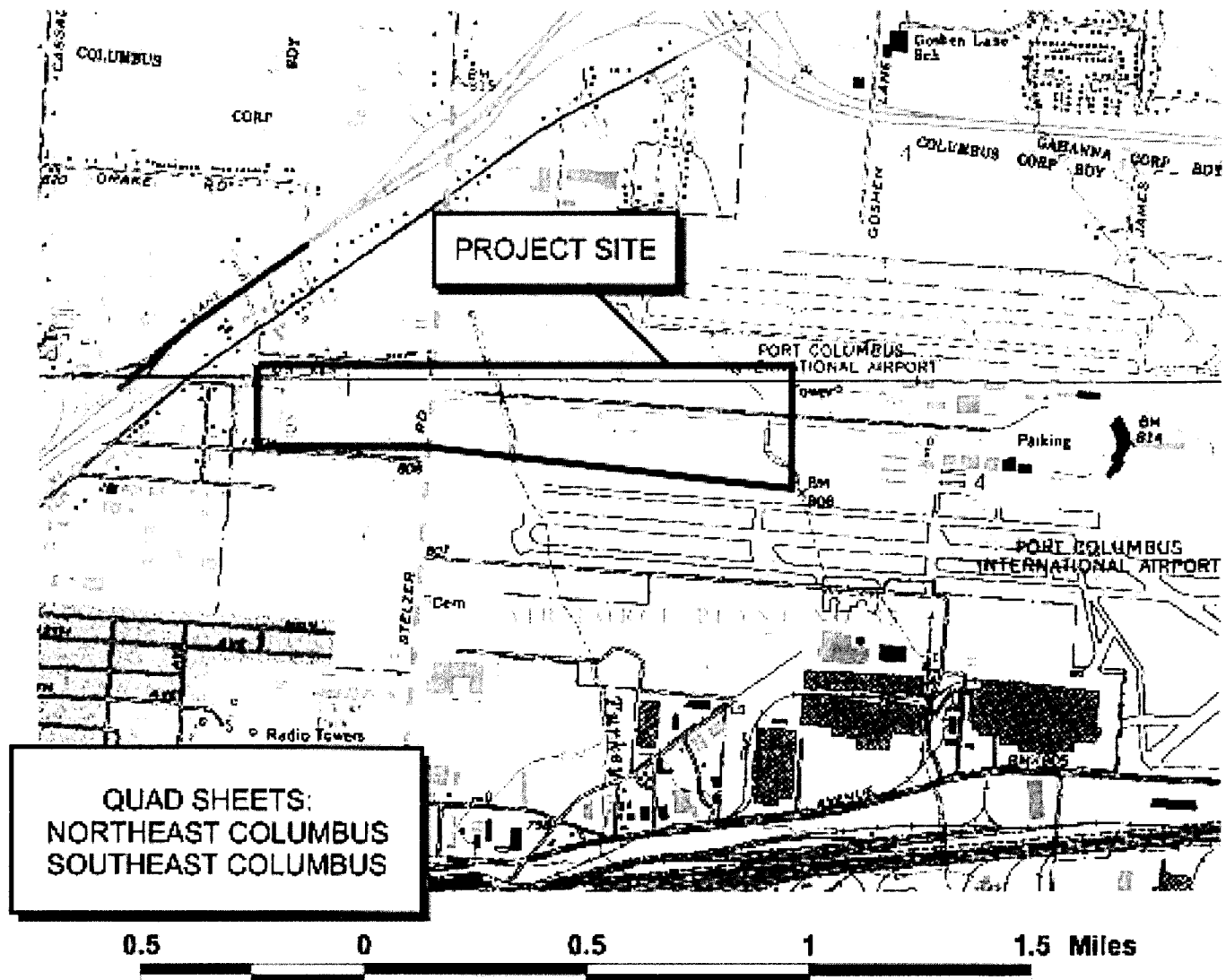
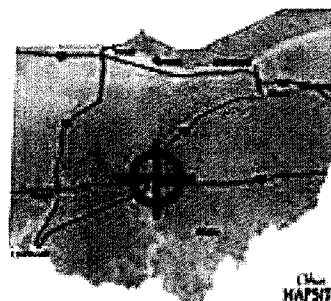
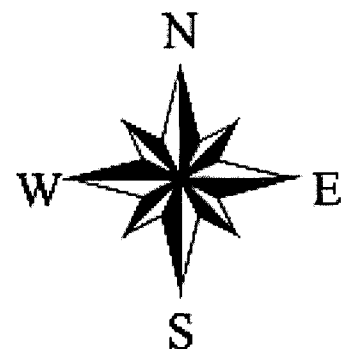


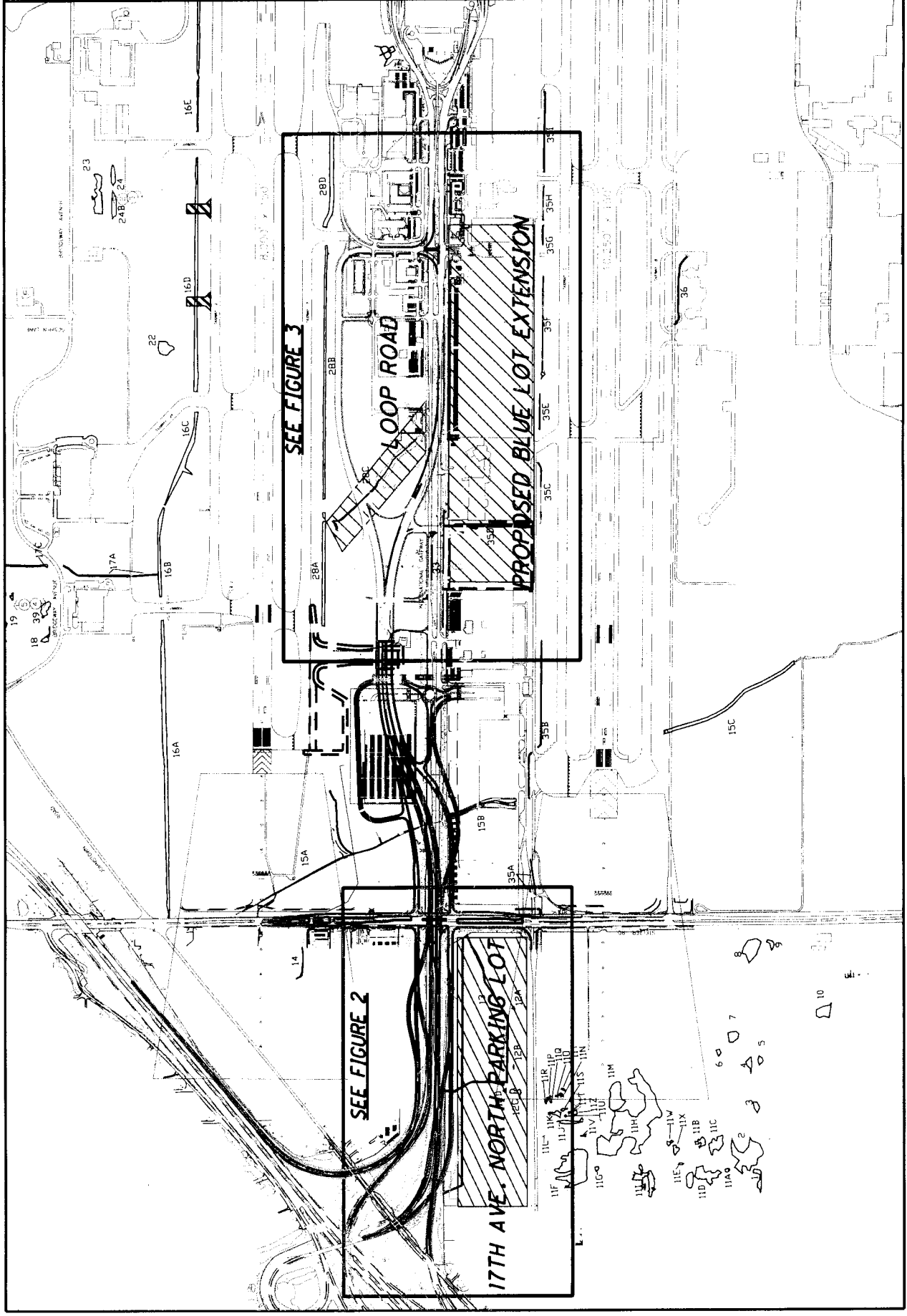
FIGURE 1: PROJECT SITE LOCATION

COLUMBUS REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
FRANKLIN COUNTY
MIFFLINTOWNSHIP



MAPSITE





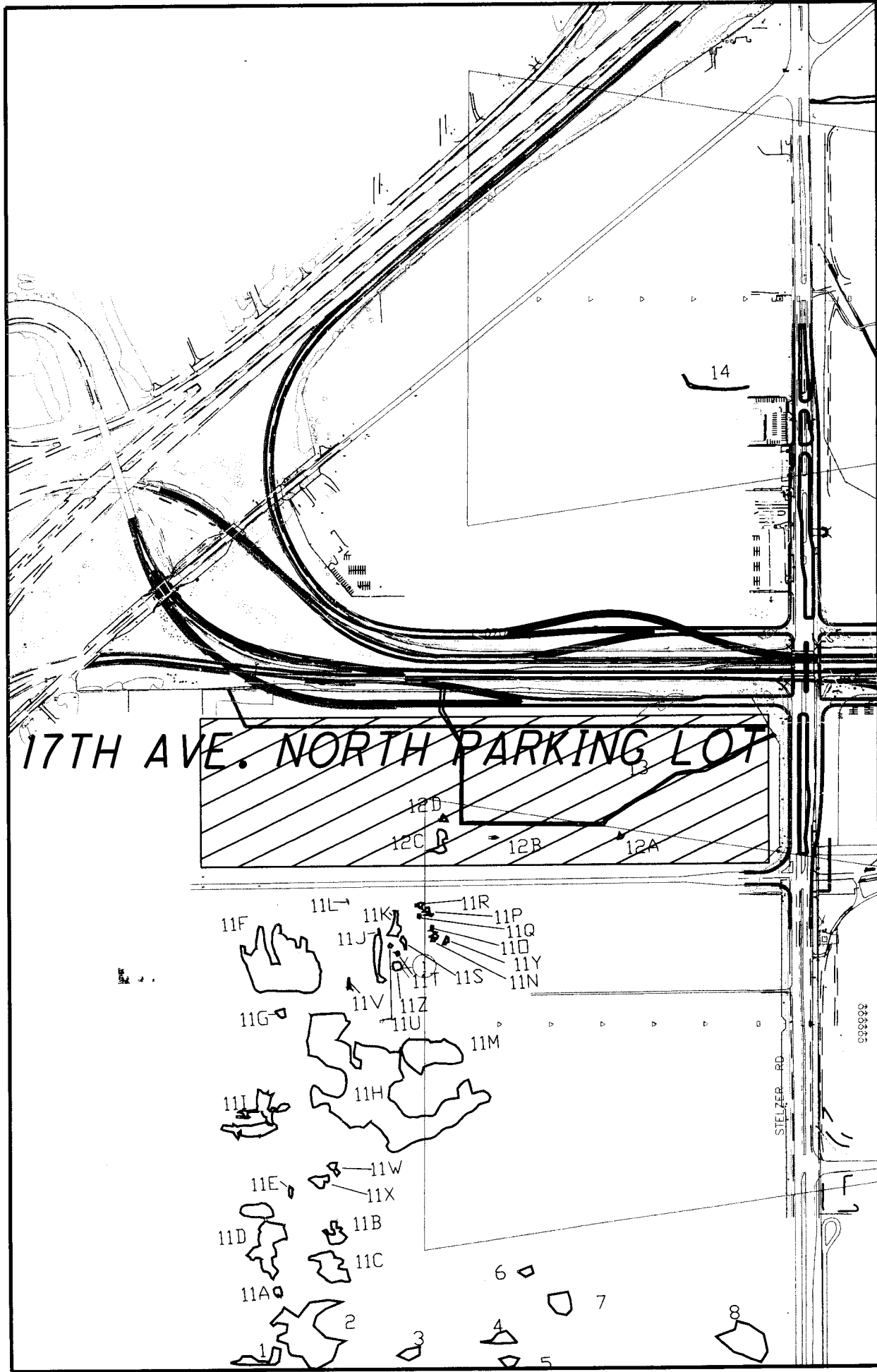
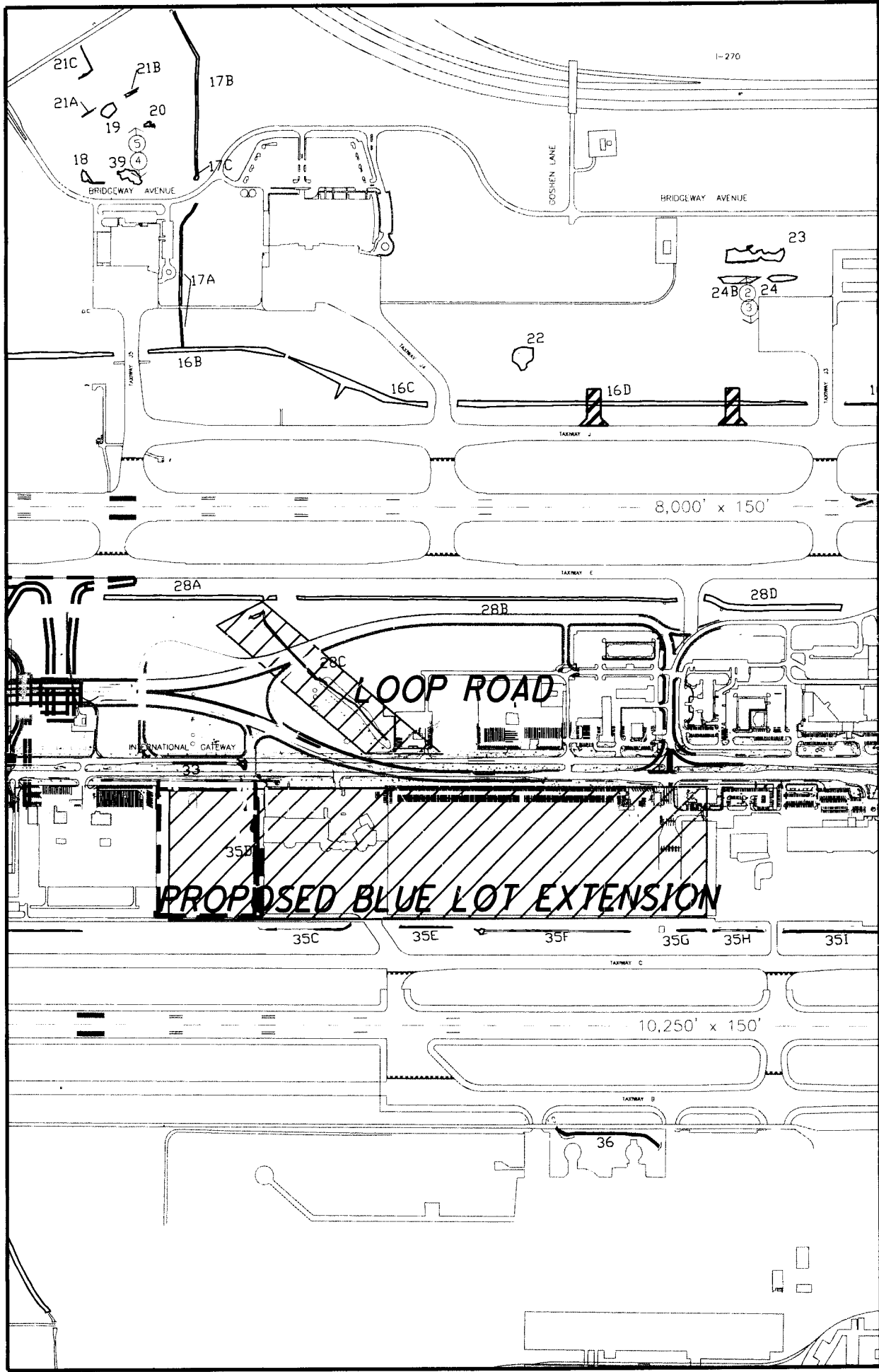


FIGURE 2: 17TH AVE. NORTH PARKING LOT

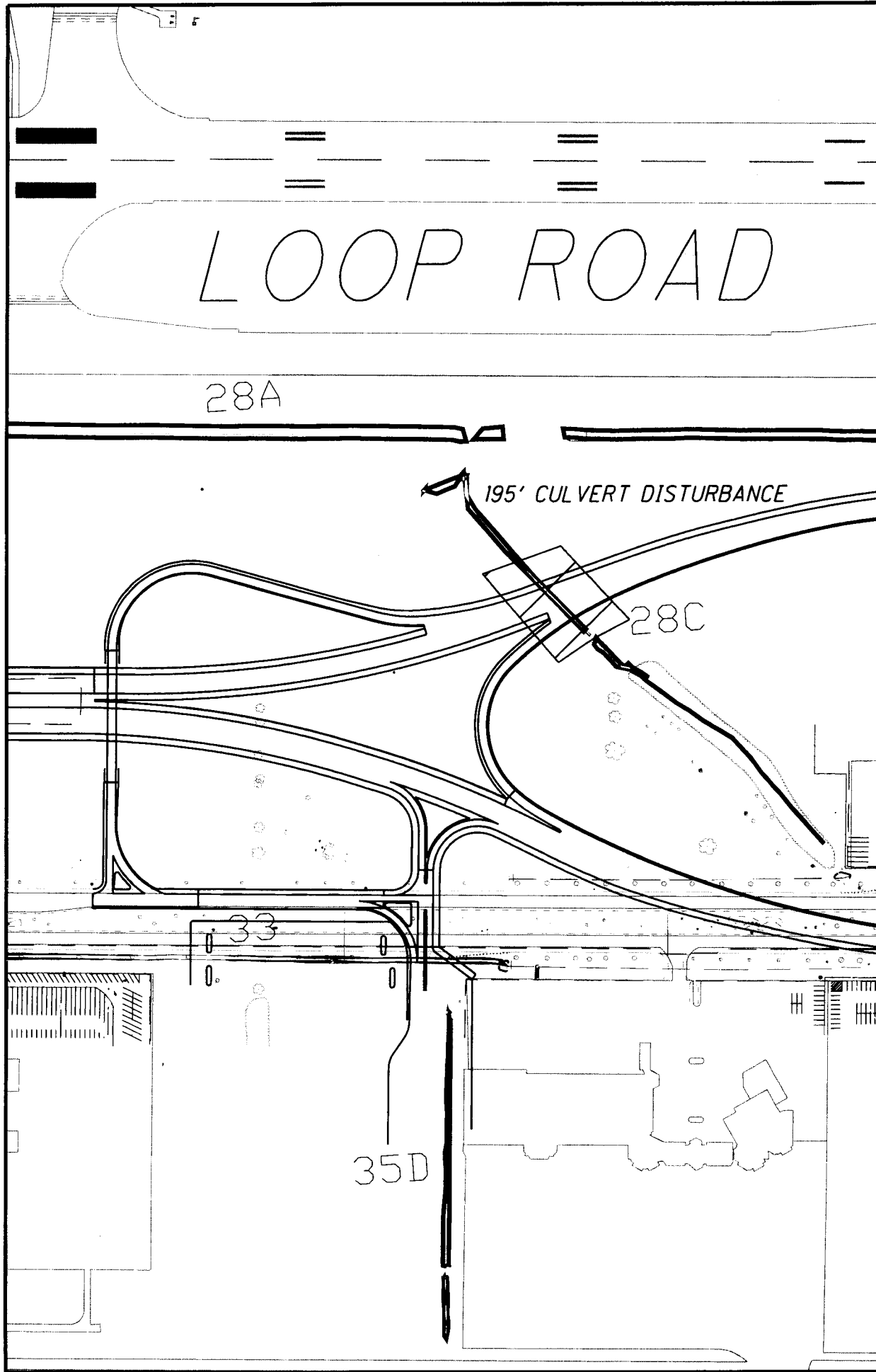
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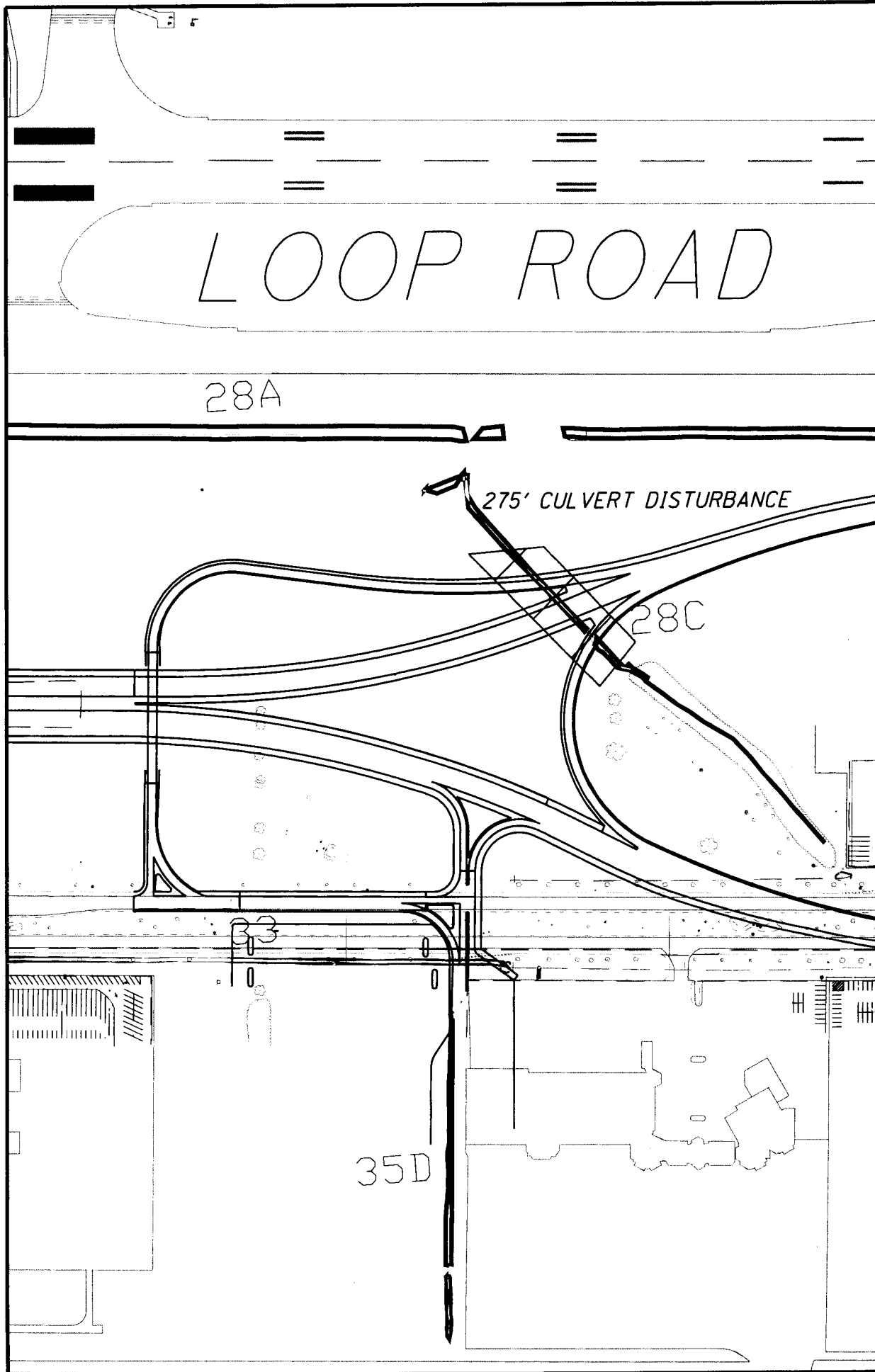
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| | HORIZONTAL SCALE IN FEET 0 350 700 | |
| | CALCULATED | CHECKED |
| FIGURE 3: LOOP ROAD/BLUE LOT EXTENSION | | |
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| | | HORIZONTAL SCALE IN FEET | CALCULATED CHECKED | FIGURE 4: LOOP ROAD OPTION 1 - PREFERRED | FRA-670-8.87 | |
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| FIGURE 5: LOOP ROAD OPTION 2 | | |
| FRA-670-8.87 | | |
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